

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of making a hollow fiber membrane contactor comprising the steps of:

winding a hollow fiber fabric around a center tube,

first potting the fabric and the tube together,

forming thereby a unitized structure,

placing the structure into a shell,

second mold potting the structure and the shell together by injecting a potting material into a space between the structure and the shell, and

forming thereby a cartridge.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first-mentioned potting being bead potting.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of heat-treating the cartridge.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the heat-treating further comprises a first heat-treating and a second heat-treating.

6. (Withdrawn) A hollow fiber membrane contactor comprising:
a unitized structure comprising
a center tube,
a hollow fiber fabric wound around said tube, and
a first potting material joining together said fabric and said tube;
a shell; and
a second potting material joining together said structure and said shell.

7. (Withdrawn) The contactor of claim 6 wherein said structure having a diameter of six (6) inches or more.

8. (Withdrawn) The contactor of claim 6 further comprising end caps located at end portions of said shell.

9. (Withdrawn) The contactor of claim 6 wherein the first potting material and the second potting material are the same.

10. (Withdrawn) The contactor of claim 6 wherein the potting material is selected from the group consisting of thermosetting materials and thermoplastic materials.

11. (Withdrawn) The contactor of claim 10 wherein the thermosetting materials are selected from the group consisting of epoxy and polyurethane.

12. (Withdrawn) The contactor of claim 10 wherein the thermoplastic materials are selected from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyurethanes.

13. (Withdrawn) The contactor of claim 5 further comprising a fabric spacer, said spacer adapted for maintaining said fiber of said fabric in a uniform and spaced apart fashion.

14. (Withdrawn) A system of contactors for degassing a liquid comprising at least two contactors coupled together, one said contactor being the contactor of claim 6.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14 wherein said structure having a diameter of 6 inches or greater.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein potting further comprises the first or the second potting with a material selected from the group consisting of thermosetting materials and thermoplastic materials.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the thermosetting material being selected from the group consisting of epoxy and polyurethane.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the thermoplastic material being selected from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyurethanes.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein placing the structure into a shell further comprises centering the structure in the shell.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A method of making a hollow fiber membrane contactor comprising the steps of:

winding a hollow fiber fabric around a center tube to a diameter of at least six inches,

bead potting the fabric and the tube together,

forming thereby a unitized structure,

placing the structure into a shell,
mold potting the structure and the shell together by
injecting a potting material into a space between the structure and
the shell, and
forming thereby a cartridge.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further
comprising the step of heat-treating the cartridge.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the
heat-treating further comprises a first heat-treating and a second
heat-treating.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein
bead or mold potting further comprises using a material selected
from the group consisting of thermosetting materials and
thermoplastic materials.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the
thermosetting material being selected from the group consisting of
epoxy and polyurethane.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the
thermoplastic material being selected from the group consisting of
polyolefins and polyurethanes.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein placing the structure into a shell further comprises centering the structure in the shell.

28. (Canceled).